(b) if so, the reasons for which he has announced this stand from the rampart of Red Fort in his Independence Day speech this year; and

(c) what is the attitude of Government of India today on this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (c) It is a fact that Pakistan continues to be in unauthorised occupation of a part of Jammu & Kashmir. While referring to frequent statements by Pak leaders about Kashmir being the unfinished task, the Prime Minister in his Independence Day address of 1994 had stated that there is only one unfinished task and that is the restoration of Pak occupied part of Kashmir to India. The effort of the Govt. of India is to resolve this problem, and other outstanding issues of differences with Pakistan, by peaceful bilateral dialogue in the spirit of Shimla Agreement of 1972, despite continued efforts of Pakistan to try to internationalise the issue relating to Jammu & Kashmir.

Bomb Blast in Outskirts of Jammu City

2600. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a power-ful bomb blast in a private bus that exploded on 29th November, 1994 at the outskirts of Jammu City;

(b) if so, whether eight pilgrims, including a child, bound for Vaishno Devi were killed and 40 others sustained injury;

(c) the steps taken by Government to investigate into the cause of the blast and to see that incidents of this nature do not recur in future; and

(d) what is the compensation amount proposed to be paid by Government to the kith of those affected by the incident ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) No such incident took place on 29-11-1994. However, on 28-11-1994, an explosion took place in a passenger bus going from Jammu to Katra, resulting in the instant death of 8 persons and injuries to 44 others. Two of the injured later succumbed to their injuries.

(c) Efforts are on to trace the culprits behind the bomb blast. Intensified patrolling by the police/security forces, establishment of police check posts on routes/roads coming to Jammu, surprise checks of buses, checking of over-loading, launching of public awareness compaign and apprehension of anti-social elements and suspected trans-border smugglers are some of the steps being taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

(d) Ex-gratia relief of Rupees 1 lakh each has been announced by the State Government in respect of persons who were killed, and Rs. 5000/- each to those injured.

Proposal From JKLF Leader on Kashmir Issue

2601. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Members of Parliament have received copies of an appeal made by the self-styled Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front to the People of India, sent from London, giving proposals regarding solution to the so-called Kashmir problem; and

(b) whether Government have also received similar proposals from the JKLF and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of letters purported to have been written by the self-styled Chairman of the JKLF from Pakistan. It is not considered necessary to react to the same.

Mercenaries Operating in Kashmir

2602. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether mercenaries of different countries have been operating in Kashmir since the onset of anti-India Militancy in 1990.

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of countries to which these mercenaries belong;

(c) whether a large number of such mercenaries either killed or apprehended were from Pakistan and Afghanistan ;

(d) whether Government prpose to put such record before Internationally developed countries to seek their view-point to declare Pakistan a Terrorist State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (e) As part of its continuing "Proxy war" and efforts to forment violence and terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan has also infiltrated foreign nationals and mercenaries into the State. Nearly 300 foreign nationls/mercenaries have been apprehended/killed till November, 1994. Apart from a large number of Pakistan Nationals and residents of PoK, they belong to various other countires including Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, etc.

Evidence of Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, including infiltration of its own nationals and other outsiders and mercenaries for this purpose into Jammu and Kashmir, has been regularly disseminated, and is also being widely acknowledged. The Government will continue to make efforts to see that Pakistan is prevailed upon to stop such blatant aggression and sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Funds for Development of Jammu and Kashmir

2603. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jammu and Kashmir Government have requested for more Central funds to keep up the tempo of development works following overall improvement in the security situation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof with quantum of such assistance ;

(c) whether the State Government propose to undertake several developmental works in the atmosphere of peace and normalcy now getting prevalent in the Valley ;

(d) if so, the names of such developmental projects to be undertaken ;

(e) whether request of State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has since been considered; and

(f) if so, the details there of and if not, the reasons ther for ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (f) The approved Plan Outlay of Jammu & Kashmir for the year 1994-95 is Rs. 950 crores. The sector-wise/scheme-wise outaly of this plan is at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 172, Annexure No. 61]. In view of the difficult financial problems of the State, the Centre has allowed in October, 1994 additional special plan assistance of Rs. 773 crores to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to meet the resource gap for the year 1994-95. Ministry of Finance has also started releasing the amount of Rs. 773 crores of special assistance after making recovery of Rs. 668.40 crores due from the State Government towards the loan repayment and interest payment to the Ministry of Finance. The additional financial assistance is expected to help the State tide over the financial crisis so as to enable various Departments to implement the planned schemes more speedily.

Action Against Army and Other Para-Military Forces in Jammu

2604. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the PRIME MINITER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of personnel of the Army, para-military forces (BSF, CRPF and Indus rial Security Force, etc.) and local police prosecuted/punished/convicted for acts of criminal and other excesses and how many have been proceeded against/punished in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 30th November, 1994;

(b) the details of criminal offences and departmental lapses they have been proceeded against/punished and against which specific incident or incidents; and

(c) the number of militants and their collaborators and other transgressors of